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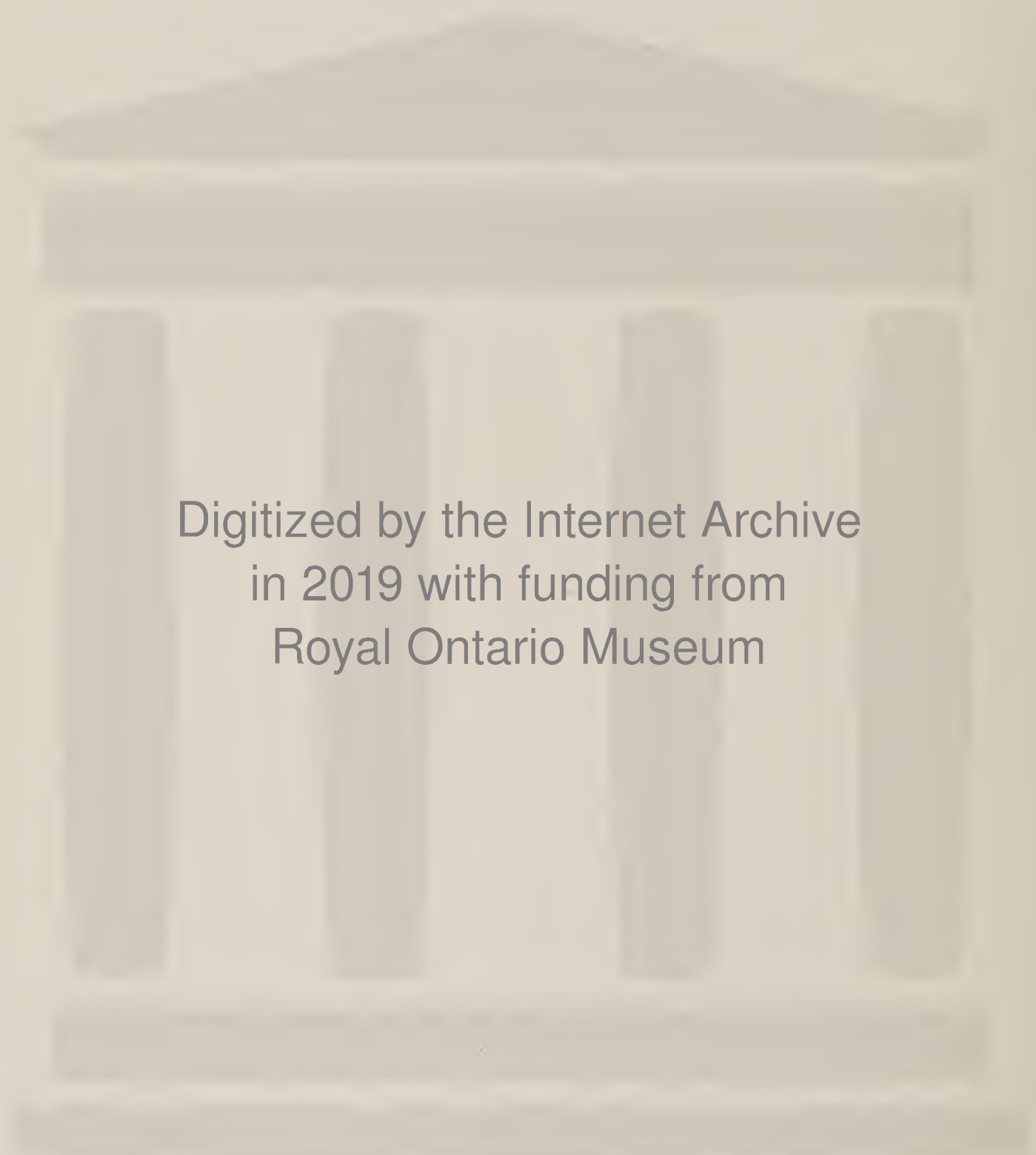
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ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD

July 1952 - June 1953

TORONTO



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ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD

July 1952 - June 1953

A

Exhibition Programme

1. Work in the Galleries

The chief event in the galleries during this year has been the rearrangement of the European collections. They were formerly arranged geographically, with the four galleries devoted to Germany and the Low Countries; France; Spain; Italy. It has become increasingly plain that this geographical arrangement is both meaningless and very difficult to use. The new arrangement, like that of most of the rest of the Museum, is chronological. The first gallery deals with the whole of Europe up to about 1525; the second to about 1650; and the third and fourth with the period from 1650 to about 1825.

On the Ground Floor the Eskimo gallery has been rearranged. The exhibits have been divided on a cultural basis into Eastern and Western Eskimos, and half the gallery devoted to each. This was done partly by the members of the Museum staff and partly with help from a most welcome volunteer, Mr. J. B. Hillen. Mr. Hillen also gave assistance in the display of other parts of the Ethnological collection.

Less extensive rearrangement has taken place in the Textile and Near Eastern Departments. In the former various features of the display are rotated at definite intervals, especially in the Costume collection. The latter has been extended by the addition of a case of children's 19th and early 20th century costume, which has proved very popular. In the Near Eastern Department, the West Asia gallery has been rearranged and redisplayed after study of the material, both that formerly on display and that in storage.

Miss Sylvia Hahn has completed a reproduction of the murals in the Etruscan Tomba del Triclinio. This has been hung in the Etruscan gallery. In this Department there has also been begun a study of all the material in the Roman-Egyptian collection, in preparation for a rearrangement of it.

2. Storage

The Chief Preparator's report, included below, draws attention to the difficulties and urgency of the problem of storage, and of the fact that gallery changes such as those mentioned all increase the material removed from exhibition. The majority of Museums built since 1900 have at least as much storage as gallery space, some much more. Some 90% of the space in this building is given over to galleries, and much of our gallery rearrangement involves an increase in material to be stored. The problem is a pressing one; how generally pressing it is is revealed by the following notes from Departments.

The Study Storage Room formed three years ago from the old Japanese Print gallery on the top floor is already threatening to overflow. This is partly because the shortage of space elsewhere has compelled us to use it for other purposes for which it was not intended. Leaving this aside, however, the gradual assembly here of the Far Eastern material not on display is itself sufficient to cause a serious space problem.

Another Study-Storage room of a similar kind was completed during the year in one of the Ground Floor galleries. This has been a great boon, providing space, as it does, for study material from Ontario, the South West, and Mexico. There is still urgent need for further Ethnology storage space, both for the African material now deteriorating in Holwood House, and for the surplus, coming or to come, from the Eskimo and other galleries.

The storage cabinets in the Textile Study room and room 381 are now filled to capacity. The overflow is housed in part in two wardrobes outside the Study Room, in part in cardboard cartons. Neither is suitable for the purpose. Besides, the textile collections are peculiarly susceptible to moth damage.

3. Special Exhibitions

The year opened with the Summer Exhibition of 1952, of Modern Ceramics of the United States, England and Denmark, already on show. There have been three other Special Exhibitions during this year, all of them restricted to the Museum's own collections. These were

a) "East and West", October 1952 to February 1953. This was an endeavour to demonstrate part of the cultural impact of the East on the West. It included eastern and western examples of pottery and porcelain, furniture and lacquer, silk and other textiles, and paper. The complementary "West and East" is to be opened in October 1953.

b) "Jewellery of the Ancient World", February to May 1953. This was planned and organised by Miss Needler, and prepared by the Near Eastern and the Greek & Roman Departments together. Very generous financial assistance was provided by Henry Birks & Sons.

c) "England of Elizabeth I", May 1953. This was prepared in connection with, and opened a week before, the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. It was the work of Mrs. Brett, and by using a mixture of actual objects with books and photographs endeavoured to give a picture of ordinary life in later 16th century England.

Nineteen Chinese paintings from the group of twenty-eight given by Bishop W. C. White in memory of the late Canon H. J. Cody were on exhibition in the Special Exhibition Gallery from May 13th to the 24th.

The following exhibitions have been shown during the year in the Sigmund Samuel Canadiana Building

"Travel and Communications in early Canada"
 "Upper Canada in Pictures"
 "Lower Canada"
 "Montreal and Quebec Pictured"

These have been restricted to material in the Sigmund Samuel Collection.

The policy of a Museum Object of the Month, tried out briefly last year, proved a success and has been continued. The following Objects have been shown

Japanese Rock Crystal, July 1952
 Standing Buddha with Attendants, Chinese, August
 Persian Glazed Pottery Bowl, September
 Ivory and Ebony Cabinet from India, October
 (this remained on exhibition throughout
 the East-West Exhibition)
 A Lady of Palmyra, February 1953
 Bronze Statuette of the Egyptian Goddess Neith,
 March
 A Ball Dress of Queen Alexandra, April
 New Zealand Mere, May
 Chinese Warrior of the Sui period, June

The Annual Exhibition of the Society of Canadian Painter-Etchers and Engravers was, as usual, held in the Museum during March 1953. A brief special showing of Miss Tanya Moyseivitch's costume drawings for the Stratford Ontario Festival's productions of Shakespeare's Richard III was held in May.

4. Loans

a. Objects lent to the Museum

Far Eastern Department. 6 ancient Chinese bronze vessels, about 1300-950 B.C., Lent by Frank Caro, New York. Painting on paper by Ch'ien-Hsüan, 13th century. Lent by C.F.Yao, New York. Quatrefoil dish in three-colour ware, Chinese, T'ang dynasty. Lent by Mrs. Grant Pepler. Chinese chair, perhaps 17th century. Lent by Mrs. Edgar Stone. Sanskrit illuminated manuscript "Bhagavata Purana", Indian, 18th century. Lent by Mr. A. H. Bazett, Guelph. 77 examples of pottery and porcelain from China, India, Indo-China, Siam and Java. Lent by Mr. Dolf Hartog.

Modern European Department. A group of Wedgwood jasper and related wares, English, 18th and 19th centuries. Lent by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. An early Charles I English clock with tortoiseshell and lacquer decoration. Lent by Miss Vivien Bowles. A Renaissance mirror and a porcelain cup and saucer, probably English, 19th century. Lent by Mrs. J. G. Dorn.

Canadian Collections. 30 oil paintings by Cornel-Kriehoff. Lent by Miss Helen Norton.

It is regretted that one of the three oil paintings by Paul Kane, lent to the Museum by Mr. A. H. O'Brian, the early self-portrait of Kane, has been withdrawn by Mr. O'Brian for sale to a client.

b. Objects lent by the Museum

3 examples of Chinese Shang sculpture and 2 late Cheu jades. Lent to the Museum of Art, University of Michigan, January to May 1953.

Palestinian bronze scimitar and a Jewish ossuary. Lent to the Travelling Exhibition "From the Land of the Bible", organised by the Metropolitan Museum, New York, June 1953.

A Paul Kane painting. Lent to the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, November 1952.

12 pieces of Chinese ceramics of various periods. Lent to the Winnipeg Art Gallery, December 1952 to February 1953.

38 examples of Chinese and Japanese ceramics. 50 examples of ceramic wares showing the growth of pottery and porcelain. Both lent to the Willis-tead Library and Art Gallery, Windsor.

15 examples of modern studio pottery. Lent to the Department of Fine Arts, McMaster University, May, 1953.

A Henry Terry clock. Lent to the Brantford Museum, March 1953.

A group of items from the Arms & Armour Collection. Lent to Fort York.

5. Disposals and Exchanges

The Denver Museum of Art and the Milwaukee Public Museum are both engaged in correspondence with us about exchanges of material. Negotiations of this kind, especially when carried on by mail, are always lengthy, and it may well be quite a long time before a definite decision is reached.

B

Staff of the Museum

1. Changes and Appointments

There have been four major changes during the year. In October 1952 Mr. F. St.G. Spendlove resigned from the Curatorship of the Modern European Department to take up the newly formed position of Curator of the Canadiana Department. He now has under his care both the Sigmund Samuel Canadiana Collection and the collections of Quebec furniture, silver, etc. and of Ontario furniture in the main Museum building. He was succeeded in the Modern European Department by Mr. T. F. Stones from the Queen's Park Art Gallery, Manchester.

Mr. Kidd returned from his absence on a Guggenheim Fellowship in October 1952, and is now Curator of the Ethnology Department.

Mr. J. R. Harper resigned from the position of Chief Cataloguer in March 1953; he is now on the staff of the New Brunswick Museum. He was succeeded as Chief Cataloguer by Miss Elizabeth Burt-Gerrans, formerly Assistant in the Textile Department.

There have been four changes in junior Museum positions. In the Greek and Roman Department Mrs. Nagy's temporary employment ended in September 1952, and she was succeeded by Miss Neda Madirazza. In the Near Eastern Department Miss Margaret Ruttiman was succeeded by Miss Helen Dewan; in the Modern European Department Miss Anna

Clarke resigned on account of the illness of her father; and was replaced by Miss Ann Gostling; in the Chief Cataloguer's Department Miss Anne McCart was succeeded by Miss Helen Mary McNichol.

2. Research and Special Work of the Staff

Miss Fernald completed research on the sculptures from Hsiang T'ang Shan of the Northern Ch'i dynasty, and presented the results in a lecture to the Chinese Art Society of America in New York. She is now working on a number of problems about our own collections, the result of which will appear in the publication to be made with the grant given by the J. P. Bickell Foundation.

The Museum has taken part in the Centenary of the birth of Sir Flinders Petrie, celebrated in London in June of this year; a large number of objects in our Egyptian collections came from Petrie's excavations. An article about Petrie's importance for the Royal Ontario Museum, written by Miss Needler, appeared in a Toronto journal; an abstract is to appear in the Centenary Booklet being prepared in London.

The Near Eastern Department also reports extensive research on accessions to the slide collection. The Greek and Roman Department has completed a catalogue of the sixty-odd amphora handles belonging to the Museum.

In the Textile Department another section of the large Harry Wearne Collection has been recatalogued and numbered, as have European woven textiles and many costume items. A start has been made in the putting in order for cataloguing of the collection of Coptic textiles. This task was left half-completed by the late Miss Anne Thomson, none of whose notes or papers about this material have come to the Museum. Progress, therefore, looks like being slow, as the collection is a large one. Cleaning, study and recataloguing has also been carried out on the collection of Peruvian textiles; identification of fibres was included in this study, and most of this material was photographed for lecture and study purposes.

3. Publications

East-West, Bulletin No. 19 of the Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology. A Bulletin-Catalogue of the Exhibition referred to above. Contributions by the Director, Mr. Spendlove, Mrs. Brett and Dr. Walmsley.

Ancient Jewellery, Bulletin No. 20. Paid for by Henry Birks & Sons. and devoted to the Special Exhibition opened in February. Written by Miss

Needler and Dr. J. W. Graham.

Gerard Brett, The East-West Exhibition of the Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology (The Connoisseur, May, 1953, 56-60)

K. E. Kidd, Sixty Years of Ontario Archaeology (Archaeology of the Eastern United States, 1952, 71-82)

K. E. Kidd, The Excavation and Historical Identification of a Huron Ossuary (American Antiquity 18, 1953, 359-79)

Miss W. Needler, An Egyptian Battle-axe (Archaeology 5, 1952, 48-50)

Miss W. Needler, Sir Flinders Petrie and the Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology (The Canadian Forum, June, 1953, 61-62)

F. St.G. Spendlove, The Graeco-Buddhist Sculpture of Gandhara, (Illustrated London News, July 26, 1952.

4. Lectures

The lecturing programme by the staff this year has been devoted to University students and Extension Courses, students of other institutions and schools. The Director, Miss Fernald and Mr. Sutherland, Miss Needler, Dr. Graham, Mrs. Brett and Miss Clark, have taken part in the first of these. The only one of these courses that requires special mention is the course on the History of Costume from the 16th to the 19th century, which the Museum agreed to give to the Department of Household Economics. The enrollment proved to be far too large for satisfactory lecturing on this subject, and it was quite impossible to cover the subject properly within the allowed time. The lectures were to be given in the Household Economics building, and it turned out that the equipment there was inadequate or non-existent: to make matters worse the Household Economics Department, who had given short enough notice in the first place, concluded the term with a sudden and new request for term marks. If this course is to be repeated it will have to be under entirely different arrangements from those which prevailed this year. The majority of the other institutions are covered in detail in the Report of the Textile Study Room: they included the Ontario College of Art, the Ryerson Institute and the Toronto School of Dress Design. Miss Caldwell gave a number of lectures to the Canadian Guild of Potters in the spring. A number of other outside lectures were also given by the staff during the year.

5. Visitors to the Museum

The Far Eastern Department reports having experienced a mild release from the load of last year's important visitors; on the other hand the number of people who brought in antiques to be examined went up to two hundred and twenty-four. The class of Important Visitors was very varied, and ranged from members of other University staffs to the present President of the General Council of the United Nations. Anything from fifteen minutes to a week had to be spent with each of these; the average time was perhaps about an hour. The Ethnology Department was similarly favoured, though to a rather lesser extent.

The Chief Preparator's Department is another one that receives a great many inquiries and requests for advice on restoration. So, in varying degree, do all Departments. It is quite impossible to estimate the number of hours spent on this kind of work.

The Association of Art Museum Directors met in Toronto on June 16th and 17th. It has a membership of fifty or sixty, of which five are Canadian and the remainder American. This was the first meeting in Toronto since 1934. The meetings took place at the Art Gallery of Toronto on the first day and at the Museum on the second. Hospitality was offered by individual members of the Board on the Monday night and by the Board itself at lunch time on Tuesday.

6. Activities

The Museum's help is regularly asked for, and given if possible, when there arises any question of starting or rearranging a Museum anywhere in the province. Many inquiries of this kind have been received during the year, the Museum of the Twenty at Jordan being one outstanding example in the first class, and the historical Museum at Fort York in the second.

Visits to Washington, New York, Philadelphia and Cincinnati, to visit other Museums or to see dealers have been made by the Director, Miss Fernald and Miss Needler.

The Director was named Perpetual Secretary of the International Academy of Ceramics, whose seat is at Geneva, Switzerland.

The Director was elected an Honorary Member of the New Brunswick Museum.

Miss Fernald received a citation at the Mount

Holyoke College Convocation on "Science and Human Values",
October 1952.

7. Excavations

The partial excavation of the first Rice Lake site was carried out last summer. One mound and portions of the Habitation site were explored. The party was headed by Mr. J. R. Harper, and included members of the Museum staff; the excavation was partly paid for by the Museum. No report has yet been completed, largely owing to Mr. Harper's resignation from the staff.

8. Ontario Textile Research

Progress in this most important branch of the Textile Department's activities continues slowly but steadily. Miss Clark is in charge of field work, and her report is attached. Work in the Kitchener and Brockville areas has brought forth the most interesting results, and in the case of Brockville a new set of problems has been raised. The importance of the Kitchener trip lies in the fact that it is a predominantly German settlement with a similar background to the Niagara Peninsula German communities. This showed up in the weaving and embroidery - the same patterns and techniques occurred in both communities, but so far rarely, or not at all, in other communities. The importance of Brockville is that it is entirely new ground, and every mile east of it to the provincial border is also new ground, and therefore we may expect to find the same problem as in Brockville, namely, that the further away from Toronto the project advances, the less known the Museum is found to be, and a considerable amount of time is required to explain to people what the Museum is and what it is trying to do. Miss Clark describes new difficulties in her report. Because of this more advance notice and detailed information will have to be distributed in the more distant districts.

The cost of field trips to such districts is greater because of the distance to be covered in getting there and back. Visits of a week or more are therefore more practical, but also expensive.

The Department is at present dependent financially on "windfalls". These are highly acceptable, but usually require immediate action, and therefore there is not time to give the advance notice necessary for distant trips, and it is more practical to use them for nearby trips.

Miss Clark's report this year is made to the Museum and not to the Textile Industry which financed the first stages of the research. This is as follows:

Trips: 7

From May 1952 to May 1953 seven field trips were taken. These included visits to Waterloo, Essex, Middlesex, Simcoe, Pelee, Leeds, Hastings and Frontenac Counties. Three of these field trips were for lecturing purposes, and four lectures were given; of the remaining four, one was to the Simcoe County Quilt and Rug Fair, one to return material, and two were field trips to the western and eastern parts of the province.

Waterloo County

The first concentrated field trip to Waterloo County was taken in May 1952. Through the kind interest of Miss Minerva Shantz of Kitchener we were able to follow up names listed in our files and to add many new ones to the list. From the material examined the weaving appears to be of a high standard, possibly not earlier than 1850. Although there was not the quantity or variety of material that was found in other districts, this like the Niagara Peninsula showed definite German style.

Blankets woven in point twill and reversed twill on multiple harness looms were frequent; one Star and Diamond coverlet and one reversed twill linen tablecloth were examined. A hitherto unknown high harness twill pattern was discovered requiring 18 harnesses. A little later in the season a second coverlet of this type was shown to us in Hamilton. Two beautiful embroidered towels were also examined, and here we found our first dated, embroidered and hand-woven linen samplers from Ontario. Twenty-one pieces were lent to the Museum for examination and photography. Early this fall the Department plans to continue research in this area, and a member of MacLean's editorial staff, Miss Doris McCubbin, will accompany us to photograph the trip and to write a story.

Belleville to Brockville

The proposed area to be covered on this trip was from Belleville to Brockville and north as far as Smith's Falls and Perth. However, due to greater distances between points in eastern Ontario, to new contacts suggested while on the trip, whom we subsequently visited, and to lack of time, only the Belleville to Brockville territory was possible, and this only partially.

Practically no material of interest was brought to our attention until just west of the Brockville area and in the town itself. Here several fine overshots were seen, as well as a beautiful knitted spread in mint condition similar to that seen in Wheatley, some knitted

lace, and excellent pieces of warp surfaced yarn carpeting. (Elbe was the town mentioned by several persons as having a weaver who wove the yarn carpeting by the yard). Areas where fishing was the industry produced fine examples of netted curtains, made from a finer twine than the nets but netted with the same type of mesh pattern. The contributing factors to the lack of weaving seen on this eastern trip were as follows:

There was no one person, or people, such as those we found in Niagara, London and Kitchener, to introduce us. This made it necessary to explain the project thoroughly even to the people whom we had written to before leaving Toronto. We were constantly being taken for the Ottawa Museum, or for buyers. This problem continually slowed up interviews.

Secondly, many of the original settlers' descendants have moved elsewhere in Ontario.

Thirdly, about half the visits made were not on our original list, hence the schedule was constantly being revised.

This trip was none the less satisfactory. We now have an ever increasing list of leads, and several friends in the area, such as Mr. and Mrs. Havelock Robb of Abbey Dawn, Miss Earl of Brockville, a newspaper woman, and Miss Johnston of Brockville, a weaver, who have offered to co-operate. Enough information has been collected to warrant another visit to this eastern territory, and the sooner it is made the better. The need is most urgent in the most easterly part of the province around Cornwall; because of the flooding of this area for the St. Lawrence waterway many old homes will soon disappear, and with them much valuable historical data.

Contacts

New contacts, 80; pieces seen, 59, and 1 piece of equipment.

Gifts: 2 pieces of carpet cord weave, warp surfaced in yarn.

Simcoe County Quilt and Rug Fair, 1952

Since the opening of the Fair several summers ago the Textile Department has taken an active interest in this yearly exhibition. The standard of the 1952 show was by far the best to date, particularly in originality of design and in workmanship. Limited display space did lead to overcrowding of quilts, but this proved to be an advantage as Barrie offered the committee the use of the Armouries

for the 1953 exhibition. This offer will be accepted unless, as proposed, the Fair is moved to a different part of the County each year.

Part of the exhibition consisted of the travelling cases and Ontario Textiles lent by the Education Division of this Museum and a display of old quilts made in Simcoe County. Seven quilts were lent to the Museum for examination and photography after the exhibition. All except one were patchwork, appliqué or quilted; the exception was a woven one of unusual technique - a four block pattern woven on eight harnesses. It is hoped that if the Fair is moved to other parts of the County old material will continue to be brought to our notice. Some woven materials were also examined at the exhibition.

Leamington and Pelee Island

Lectures, 4 (3 given on the Island)

Attendance:	Schools	110
	I.O.D.E.	65
	A.C.A.	34
		209

The I.O.D.E. chapter in Leamington, together with the Principal of the Continuation School on Pelee Island arranged with the Textile Department for a lecturer from this Museum to come and speak to them about the history of early Ontario weaving. At this time one lecture was given to the Leamington group, two to the senior grades in the Continuation School, and one to the American Cottagers' Association. After the Leamington talk a number of the women gave helpful information and names. These leads we plan to follow up when completing the Essex County survey. The Island talks at the school brought a little more information and it was as a result of these talks that the American Cottagers' Association asked for an evening. Several of the women who attended were active members of the Cleveland Museum programme committee, and knew of American pieces comparable to some of those shown at the talk.

Wentworth Historical Society in Hamilton

Attendance: 60

At the request of the Historical Society a talk was given in Hamilton early this year on the Ontario Textile research project. It proved to be an interesting meeting, and many new names were added to our growing file.

9. Television

Miscellaneous activities connected with television and the Museum have been carried out by various members of the staff during the year; it has chiefly fallen on Mr. Sutherland. None of the large-scale Museum programmes discussed with the C.B.C. in the autumn of 1952 has materialised.

10. Provincial Legislation on the Care of Sites

A Brief was written by members of the Museum staff in collaboration with the University Department of Anthropology, and submitted to the Minister of Education in the name and at the request of the Museum Board. This happened late in 1952, and a number of more or less hurried consultations took place with the Deputy Minister in charge of this at the beginning of 1953. The Provincial "Act for the Protection of Archaeological and Historic Sites" was passed by the Provincial Legislature in February. I am sorry to have to say that in my opinion sufficient attention was not paid to the points and arguments made in the Brief submitted by the Museum. The Act seems likely to be effective only for historic buildings, which are definable and can be more or less easily protected. For archaeological sites the Act appears to me likely to have precisely the opposite effect to that intended.

C

Reports from Special Departments

Report of the Chief Preparator

1. RESTORATION AND ALLIED ACTIVITY

Painting During the past year, with the many gallery renovations and special shows, an enormous number of objects has needed restoration. The most notable and time-consuming task has been the restoration and cleaning of the greater part of the large collection of oil paintings by Paul Kane. There are a hundred and one, and about half of them have been cleaned, and when necessary relined; they are now in first class condition. This work will be continued, other commitments permitting, during the coming year.

Bronzes This has been a bad year. Many bronze objects displayed in the galleries had to be removed to the laboratory for treatment. The direct cause, of course, is the uncontrollable moisture content of the building at different seasons of the year. The presence of carbons (soot) in the dust in the galleries, with moisture added, causes a reaction on the ancient metals. In most cases spot clean-

ing was all that was needed, but in one instance a whole case of bronzes had to be removed, and 65% of the objects had to have a complete electrolysis treatment to restore and protect them.

Casts and Impressions of objects were made during the year, most of them for teaching purposes, or travelling exhibits, some for our own galleries, for exhibition with objects.

Travelling Exhibits and Loans The Education Division during the past year has again used a large amount of material for travelling shows. The preparation and mounting of the cases have taken some time, but there has been no loss or damage. Many loan collections have been sent out, again with no damage or loss, due solely to the careful and studied handling and packing of the objects.

Ceramics, Glass and Silver Lectures, general interest and additions to the collections have caused a continual removal, replacement and restoration of this material, as well as a great deal of cleaning and conservation. Many pieces of glass, ceramics and silver were removed from the galleries for treatment. This is not unusual for collections the size of ours, and is the routine duty of the department. The public have brought in a great many objects to be examined, and opinions have been given as to age, techniques, conservation and restoration.

Furniture The conservation and restoration of the large collection of furniture displayed in the galleries is a constant and time-consuming care, due to the easy access of the public to the collection, and to the great changes of temperature and humidity in the galleries. The worst enemy is the humidity, especially in the east wing of the furniture gallery, where the leakage of water through the windows has caused a great number of man-hours to be consumed to counteract the water hazard at certain seasons of the year. This is due to a building fault that could and should be remedied, but has been a constant worry for years.

Public Queries The Department has dealt with a great many inquiries and requests for advice on conservation and restoration. Many objects have been sent in for examination and identification, and many others have been offered to us for purchase or as gifts. This takes a great deal of our time, but is worth while, as the Museum often acquires gifts from the contacts made. It has been the Department's rule to give all the time necessary for advice and help in the conserving and restoring of objects of Museum calibre.

Historical Museums Many of these have asked and been given help in general planning of displays, restoration,

and conservation. When a request has come in a member of the Preparator's staff has examined building and contents and given advice on methods of display and on the conservation and restoration necessary on the objects to be displayed. Among the many institutions helped in this way were the Sharon Temple and Fort York, and the historical Museums in Napanee and Jordan.

2. DISPLAY AND GALLERY RENOVATION

The reorganisation of the European galleries has been completed this year; the material formerly arranged by country has now been arranged chronologically. The Ethnology galleries are also being renovated, with a complete change of casing and display in the Eskimo gallery. If time is available the Eskimo galleries should be completed this summer. There have been changes of display in individual cases throughout the galleries, and for each of these changes the Preparator's staff was occupied in cleaning, moving and restoring the objects for display.

Special Exhibitions have involved, in many cases, the full time of the Preparator's staff for one or more days. For a great deal of the reorganisation and for the special shows we pay tribute to the carpenter's shop. The presence of this trained staff of cabinet workers allows us a wide scope in display and renovation, at very little cost. If it were not for the carpenter's shop much of our work would be considerably curtailed. In the Eskimo gallery, for instance, cases are being completely changed at very little cost, giving the gallery an entirely new appearance.

Storage With the reorganisation of the galleries it is inevitable that a great number of the objects which have been on display should be removed for study or storage. This Museum was never planned for either, and the situation now presents a great problem. Study collections and storage material are at present occupying staff working space. Adequate space in the present building is not available; and as our collections continue to grow the congestion increases, with no relief in sight. It is the duty of the Preparator's staff to maintain all material in the Museum, whether on display or in storage, and the problem of doing so is now approaching the impossible. If space is not provided for the material collected by the departments irreparable loss must be foreseen, owing to space limitations and shortage of staff.

Conservation As mentioned in previous reports, the conservation of the collections as a whole has suffered because of shortage of staff, and of the volume of work the staff are called upon to do each year. Since 1945, when I was appointed Chief Preparator, the Department has been occup-

ied with Special Exhibitions, inaugurated that year, and with the reorganisation of the galleries. This has all been attempted, and has since become routine, without any increase in the size of the staff whose time had formerly been fully occupied with conservation and restoration. It is apparent that something had to be neglected, and my reports of the past few years have stated that the routine conservation, so essential to a Museum of this size, has not been adequately carried out for a number of years. There must be a change of operations in the coming year to allow for much needed conservation, which, regardless of other commitments, must be continued until such time as the material in the galleries has been made safe.

SURVEY

For the year ending in June 1953 I must once again point out that the types of work completed would be impossible to enumerate. The arrangement of the Special Exhibitions and of the Objects-of-the-Month has been very time-consuming, and the staff has been under constant pressure to meet these commitments. Public inquiries, examination of objects, advice to other institutions, all take more of our time. Each year brings a greater interest in the Museum and increased activity in every department. All this increases the demands on the Preparator's Department, which alone is responsible for the security, conservation and restoration of the Museum collections.

Again I must say that although commitments during the year have been met, and there have been pleasing remarks about the results, the staff as a whole are dissatisfied, knowing that the work done could have been greater in volume and efficiency if the staff were increased to a size proportionate to the work to be done. The help we could give to the curatorial staff is at present limited, owing to our commitments with special shows and the attempt to reorganise the gallery displays. These commitments are too many for us to be able to give the curatorial staff the time needed for the advancement of their work.

Report of the Chief Cataloguer

The Department has had a most unusual year, with a complete turn-over of staff. The amount of daily routine work completed was understandably below average, but covered the acquisition correspondence, labelling, and cataloguing of approximately 650 newly received objects, the checking-in and out of material left for examination, or on approval, by over 200 interested persons, and the arrangements for fifty shipments by express. A total of 19 temporary loan exhibitions was sent to various Museums in Canada and the United States, and approximately 150 objects were received on permanent loan in this Museum.

Special work was done on the cataloguing of some 80 items from the 1952 Rice Lake excavations, and the collection of Roman glass recently acquired from Dr. Meek.

By far the most urgent business of this Department, apart from the routine work, is the endless job of cataloguing or renumbering backlog material. No complete tally was kept of the number of objects re-done, but this was carried on continuously, due to the decision that all material going on exhibition should be numbered according to the revised system. Besides the objects involved in minor gallery changes, this covers the collection of Chinese robes, the Peruvian textiles, and the material of the three Special Exhibitions: Jewellery of the Ancient World; England of Elizabeth I; and the forthcoming exhibition West-East. The reorganisation of the five European galleries, which was completed in March, necessitated the renumbering of the numerous collections represented in these galleries. In this project alone over 1400 objects have been handled.

The actual recording of cataloguing in the foregoing groups, however, has only just begun. It has been found that this systematic method of recataloguing is the most satisfactory, and affords less opportunity for error. The work of painting the new numbers on all the objects recatalogued is also incomplete. As it was physically impossible for the present staff to handle this job too, temporary help was given by a member of the Preparator's staff. This is not an ideal situation, since his time is necessarily subject to the demands made upon the already short-staffed Preparator's Department. There is every reason to expect that the volume of recataloguing will increase in the coming year, and it is therefore strongly recommended that arrangements be made for the services of a second assistant.

With the resignation of Mr. Harper as Chief Cataloguer two staff meetings were held in January, to discuss the merits and demerits of the new method of cataloguing as instituted in 1948. The resulting suggestions for improvement have now been acted upon, and have relieved the Cataloguing Department staff of the necessity of continuing impractical aspects of the system. From actual experience it was found that important information especially early records, was not readily available, due to the incompleteness of the files. To leave less margin for error, and to eliminate time-consuming quests, it has been decided to overhaul the whole filing system, and to integrate all records into one logical method of classification. Some of the gaps in the Catalogue file have been traced and filled, and a revision of the Donor's File, suggested at the staff meetings, is almost completed.

after two months of steady and wearing application.

From a practical viewpoint alone it is a great nuisance that there is no adequate "finding list" of all Museum material. For obvious reasons this is a very pressing need, and it is intended that this department will work in cooperation with the Chief Preparator to label storage and prepare master lists. Plans of gallery and case lay-outs will also be drawn up to record the location of objects on display.

In recent weeks the work of this Department has been further extended to include custody of the steadily expanding file of photographs, and the task of adding dated notations to the catalogue when objects are cleaned or restored.

Report of the Librarian

Eighty new books have been added to the Library this year, five of which were gifts. Through the sale of some obsolete books at Britnell's Book Store we were able to obtain a credit of \$100.00. This amount has not yet been touched, but is very much appreciated. \$170.00 of the Annual Grant has been spent on maintenance, and the rest devoted to the purchase of books.

Report of the Textile Study Room

The Textile Study Room continues to be used regularly by students and other visitors. The average numbers of students from the College of Art and the Ryerson Institute are about the same as last year, but differently distributed. Because the College of Art is now so far away from the Museum it is not practical for students to come so often, and their numbers are therefore fewer. The Ryerson Institute, on the other hand, arranged for its 4th year School of Fashion students to come to the Museum 24 afternoons in the year. Of these 20 were spent in the Textile Study Room. A short introductory talk was given by a member of the Department, and this was followed by an hour of drawing. The emphasis was on costume. Four afternoons were spent drawing in the galleries.

The Ontario College of Art Students who came to the Study Room were those in 3rd and 4th year Advertising Art and 3rd year Interior Design. A miscellaneous selection of subjects were covered, including 16th and 19th century costume. Renaissance textiles and lace, examples of textiles, lace and 19th century costume and books with illustrations of 16th century costume were provided for the students.

Each year Mr. Dawson Kennedy of the Central Techni-

cal School brings his students to the Study Room to draw European printed textiles. This year only one afternoon was spent in the Study Room; other work he required from his students was done in the galleries.

In January a lecture was given to the Spinners and Weavers of Ontario. It was illustrated with material from the collections, chiefly from the Study Room. A list of the pieces and their numbers were given to each member, and they were invited to come to the Study Room and examine any pieces in which they were interested. For about two weeks after this lecture at least one member visited the Study Room each day either to examine material or seek information.

Details of lectures given were as follows:

Toronto School of Dress Design, 11 lectures ($1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 hours each). Attendance, 132. Subject, Costume.

Ryerson Institute of Technology, 20 lectures (2 hours each). Attendance, 213. Subject, Costume.

Simcoe County Arts and Crafts Association and King Crafts, 2 lectures. Attendance, 35, 56. Subject, Designs in Textiles.

Pelee Continuation and Public School, 4 lectures. Attendance, 118. Subject, Costume of the 18th and 19th centuries.

University of Toronto, 9 lectures. Attendance, 561. Subject, Costume of the 16th to 19th centuries.

Lectures, Classes and Groups

	Number of Lectures	Number of Students
U. of T. Art & Archaeology	9	90
U. of T. General Course	9	561
Ryerson Institute School of Fashion	20	213
Ryerson Institute Furniture Design	2	80
Ontario College of Art	5	84
Toronto School of Design	11	132
	56	1160
Ontario College of Art (Miss Home)	5	54
<u>Miscellaneous Lectures</u>		
U. of T. Extension	4	140
Park School	1	12
Central Technical School	1	18
	6	170
fwd	67	1384

Lectures, Classes and Groups, fwd:	Number of Lectures	Number of Students
forward:	67	1384
Simcoe County Arts & Crafts	1	35
King Crafts	1	56
Spinners & Weavers of Ontario	1	55
Wentworth Historical Society	1	60
Pelee Island Continuation School		
Ontario Textiles	2	110
Costume	4	118
Pelee Island A.C.A.	1	34
I.O.D.E. Leamington	1	65
	<u>12</u>	<u>533</u>
Total	79	1917

Report of the Sigmund Samuel Canadiana Collection

The Sigmund Samuel Canadiana Gallery has had a busy and successful year. Public interest has been continuous and increasing; attendance for the eleven months to May 31st was 12,250. Schools are using the facilities of the gallery to an increasing degree.

Equipment Two large wooden racks for framed pictures were installed in the basement storage room, and five pieces of polished plate glass have been ordered for the display of maps in the Map and Chart Room.

Landscaping Landscaping around the building has been carried out during the year by the Sheridan Nurseries after approval of their plan by the building architect. The work is now complete, and the result very satisfactory.

Publicity A valuable article on the gallery and its collection appeared in the Connoisseur for August 1952, written by Helen Comstock, the American editor. Further articles on the collection of water colours by J. P. Cockburn, as well as on the French Canadian furniture collection in the main building of the Museum, have been requested by the Connoisseur.

The National Film Board made large coloured photographs of the 16 Krieghoff oil paintings in the Sigmund Samuel collection. They are to be used in a new coloured film on the life of the artist, to be ready in about 8 months time.

Recommendations

The main purposes for which this Museum exists, as defined in the Royal Ontario Museum Act, 1947, were

The collection and exhibition of objects of any kind to illustrate and to make known to the public the history of man in all ages . . . and the history of Ontario and Canada.

The promotion of Teaching, Research and Publication in the . . . history of Ontario and Canada.

The cooperation with manufacturers or industry in Ontario for the purpose of improving or expanding industrial design.

None of these purposes can be accomplished without sufficient money, and I write this paragraph this year to stress to the Museum Board how urgent the Museum's need of money is if we are to continue trying to fulfil these or any other reasonable purposes. The purposes given in the Act can only be accomplished

a) if we can pay sufficient staff salaries to enable the Museum to attract and retain good people. This is not now the case. It seems to me that the rigid rule classifying the Museum staff together with the administrative staff of the University is archaic and irrelevant, and must be relaxed. The new cost of living index started four years ago has now increased over 14% since 1949; the general level of Museum salaries in that time has not increased by half that figure.

b) if the Museum can have a sufficient purchase grant. Without it our collections will remain either totally inadequate, or many years behind the times at best. During the year covered by this Report there has been no purchase grant at all, and I regard it as urgent that it should be restored raised to a figure commensurate with the responsibilities the Museum is expected to assume.

c) if the Museum can have a sufficient grant of money for the tools of research - principally books, but also photographs. The Library and photography grants this year and for many years past have been totally inadequate for this task.

Some years ago now the Museum started on a programme of Special Exhibitions. These have grown steadily more time-consuming, despite their decrease in number from six or more to three. The calls each one now makes on the existing staff have become too great for the regu-

lar care and conservation of our collections to be continued at an adequate level. To enable this latter to be done it is essential that there should be a lull in the Special Exhibition programme, and I propose that the year 1954 should be this lull. Special Exhibitions will be shown, but no work except the actual mounting will be done by the staff or in the Museum. Regular conservation is an urgent problem, and has been hanging on for far too long already.

Space for offices and for storage of objects becomes more of a problem as months go by. I have referred to it in Annual Reports more than once already, and I do so again. I believe there are sections of this Museum which could be used for the purpose, and I shall be making recommendations to the Board soon. The problem has now become so urgent, especially with the need to store valuable objects in the totally unsuitable cellar of Holwood House, that drastic action will be necessary.

Action on the east side of the old wing of the Museum building is equally urgent, if not more so. I understand we may expect some action during the months to come, and I hope it will serve the purposes to which it is directed.

E

Principal Acquisitions

1. Far Eastern Department

Stone stele carved with a Buddha group, made for the Tao-ch'ing Temple in Ch'ang-an in A.D.678. Gift of Mrs. Edgar Stone.

Japanese illustrated book, with lacquer paintings by Shibata Zeshin, 19th century. Gift of Mr. Edgar Stone in memory of his father, Charles Edgar Stone.

Sang-de-boeuf bottle vase, K'ang Hsi period. Gift of the Misses Ann and Margaret Laidlaw.

Blanc-de-chine figure of standing Kuán-yin, 18th century. Gift of the Misses Ann and Margaret Laidlaw.

Album painting on silk, attributed to Ch'iu Ying, 16th century. Gift of the Misses Ann and Margaret Laidlaw.

Album painting on silk, attributed to Ch'iu Ying, 16th century. Gift of the Members.

Four engravings from a set made in China by Fathers Castiglione, Attiret, Sichelbart and Jean Damascene on the Conquest of Turkestan. Engraved in the middle of the 18th century. Gift of Professor E. W. Banting.

Dragon Robe, brown silk gauze embroidered in multi-coloured silks with five-clawed dragons, Ch'ing. Gift of Mrs. Duncan Graham.

Fragment of figured silk brocade, Ming Dynasty. Gift of Mrs. Duncan Graham.

Embroidered panel, inscribed and dated 1820. Gift of Miss Alice Boney.

Porcelain plate, blue and white Ch'eng Hua type of lotus design, mark and period of K'ang Hsi. Gift of Mrs. A. J. R. Sinclair.

Japanese Priest Hood of brocade. Gift of Charles Bell, Rochester, N.Y.

Fragments of two mandarin squares, one with a lion, the other with the paintze of an Earl. Ming Dynasty K'o-ssü. Purchase.

2. Ethnology Department

Collection of early Peruvian pottery. Gift of Mr. R. V. LeSueur in memory of his father.

Birch bark basket, probably Delaware, painted in traditional style. Gift of Professor D. B. Shutt.

Collection of Oceanic and African material. Lent by the late Miss Nora Bailey and given to the Museum by her mother.

Prayer book in Mohawk. Gift of Miss Lucile Hoskins.

3. Near Eastern Department

Two Egyptian relief sculptures, early 6th dynasty. Gift of the Reuben Wells Leonard Estate.

Group of ancient Near Eastern objects, mostly from Palestine, and including pottery vessels, two bronze figurines, a glazed steatite head and a shawabti figure. Gift of Professor T. J. Meek.

Two pottery vessels, Middle Bronze Age, from Megiddo, Palestine. Gift of Mr. L. Pavlenko.

Three pages of Arabic Manuscript. Gift of Mr. W. H. Sandham.

4. Modern European Department

Silver wine label, London, late 18th century. Gift of Mr. John L. Russell, Montreal.

Travelling set of individual cutlery in red morocco case. Gift of Miss Athalie Kenrick.

Seven-piece cruet set in silver holder by R. Hennell, London, 1831. Sheffield plate wine funnel, late 18th century. Gift of Mr. R. W. Brigstocke.

Pair of Dutch marquetry chairs, early 18th century. Gift of Mrs. F. N. G. Starr.

Chest of drawers, mid 18th century. Gift of Mrs. W. D. Ross.

Stoneware bowl by Mrs. Mary C. Dorr, contemporary American. Gift of the artist.

Two porcelain tiles painted in underglaze blue. Chinese, early 18th century. One tin-enamelled tile, Dutch or French, 18th century. Gift of Miss Vivian Bowles.

Pottery bowl by Natzler, about 1950. Gift of Mr. F. St. G. Spendlove.

Pottery bowl, modern Serbian. Gift of Miss Amice Calverley.

Plate from miniature dinner service, English, Staffordshire, early 19th century. Gift of Mrs. W. E. Piper, Sudbury, Mass.

Three cups and saucers from a doll's tea set, probably Staffordshire, about 1850. Gift of Miss Jane Lucas, Mrs. Rose Robinson and Miss Jessie Lucas.

Pair of candlesticks with prisms, glass, possibly English, about 1840. Gift of Mrs. R. V. LeSueur.

Wine glass, about 1820. Gift of Cramer's Antique Shop, Kingston.

Early 19th century drinking glass and a Henry Terry clock. Bequest of Mrs. Elizabeth Shaw, Brantford.

Bowl by Lucie Rie, contemporary English. Purchase.

Two bowls, Saxbo, contemporary Danish. Purchase.

Porcelain soup plate, Dutch, Amstel, 3rd quarter of the 18th century. Purchase.

Porcelain cup and saucer, Marcolini period of Meissen.
Purchase.

Porcelain cup and saucer, Meissen, 1750 or earlier.
Purchase.

Porcelain cup and saucer Vienna, 2nd half of the 18th
century. Purchase.

Vase by Straigte Murray, contemporary English. Purchase.

Teacup and coffee cup of Ginori ware, 20th century.
Acquired by exchange.

5. Textile Department

White satin wedding dress, Toronto, 1906. Gift of
Mrs. D. Bruce Macdonald.

Evening dress, French, 1910. Gift of Miss Hattiemae
Austin.

Dress of the 1880's. Gift of Miss Isobel Cochran.

Piece of striped and patterned silk, Italian, 17th
century. Gift of Count and Countess Bieniewski.

White coverlet with pattern in looped weave, English,
first half of the 19th century. Gift of Mrs. W. A.
Thorne.

Patchwork quilt, English, mid 19th century; made from
fragments of printed cottons. Gift of Miss Annie
Armstrong.

Jacquard coverlet, probably Ontario, 19th century.
Gift of the John R. McNicol Estate.

Patchwork quilt, Ontario, probably mid 19th century,
possibly woven by Samuel Fry. Gift of Mr. Daniel
Westner.

6. Canadiana Department

a Quebec Gallery

Collection of French Canadian table silver formerly
on loan from, now the gift of Mr. John E. Langdon.

Silver rutneg grater, probably Quebec, 18th century.
Gift of Mr. John E. Langdon.

Silver medal struck for Captain Cook to give to
Indian chiefs. Gift of Mr. J. D. Ferguson.

Pair of carved pine altar candlesticks, early 18th century, in the style of the Cap Tourmente School. Gift of the R. Laidlaw Lumber Company.

b. The Sigmund Samuel Canadiana Collection.

Mezzotint print, two sketches, five aquatints, nine lithographs, three line engravings, all 19th century.

Books of Canadian interest, including Champlain, "Les Voyages de la Nouvelle France", published in 1632; "Purchas his Pilgrims" published in 1625; material relating to the history of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Plan of the city of Quebec, engraved in 1694.

Manuscript plan of York, Ontario, dated 1818.

